



# The Voice

**Office and Worship:** Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick (UUCF) 4880 Elmer Derr Rd., Frederick, MD 21703



*Fifth graders lead Shabbat services and Kol Ami's Hanukkah celebration on December 7, 2018.*

## December 31st — Only one of the many New Years we celebrate as Jews

**Rabbi Simon Stratford**



**W**hether your New Year's celebration included a night on the town, an evening with friends, or dozing off on the couch

before midnight, New Year's Eve is an opportunity to reflect upon the year that has passed. But did you know that December 31 is only one of five New Year's Eves that we celebrate?

There are four dates designated as beginnings of the year on the Jewish calendar. These four divisions of time are specified in a single section of the *Mishnah*, the initial codification of

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## From the President 'Tis the Season

**Dan Sieger**

**T**is the Season... I am sure that you have heard that many times over the past few weeks. 'Tis the Season to be Jolly, to be Merry, to be Festive, to save on a new car, to get that piece of jewelry that she has always wanted. But do you ever think about the Season? There are a lot of seasons... the weather, football (How 'Bout Them Cowboys), baseball, hockey, growing, skiing, holiday, so many others and the most feared... pumpkin spice! All of those items have one thing in common... there is a start and an end. What we forget is that hunger and homelessness does not always have a start and an end date.

At a recent Executive Committee meeting, we had Ed Hinde, Co-founder and Executive Director of Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership (SHIP) of Frederick County, speak on

the efforts that SHIP is doing to help the youth in Frederick. I was aware of a homeless population in Frederick, from a friend taking food to homeless camps, another friend helping out at the shelter downtown, to our religious school students making handout bags. I would pass them out to the homeless in Frederick and in Reston, Virginia. So, when our Social Action Committee wanted to work with SHIP this year, it seemed like a no-brainer. I was shocked to find out that there are so many families and children who are homeless, hungry and don't know where they will get their next meal or when they will get new clothes.

We have collected a lot of items for SHIP, and that is wonderful. But what I don't want anyone to forget... it doesn't end on January 1. We all are in our warm homes, going to and from work (in the dark), looking at our credit card bills from the

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## From The President

*Continued from page 1*

holidays and not wanting to do anything in the evenings as "it's just too cold". I am not asking for anyone to go down and work at the shelter or go to a homeless camp. I am just asking that we don't forget that there is no start or end date. I am sure that everyone has been shopping for their weekly groceries or has walked through Target or Walmart and saw something that you think to yourself, "That is just a great deal. They are practically giving it away, and I just can't think of anyone that is that size or uses that brand or there are no birthdays that are coming up, etc." I just ask that when you come across a deal like that, pick up one or two. Bring it to the UU or Religious School and we will make sure that it gets into the hands of those who are that size, don't care what brand it is, and whose birthday hasn't been celebrated in a while. From NEW socks, underwear, shirts, shoes, toiletries, toys, non-perishable food – we will take it all. And when you are in your warm home, you can be assured that you have made someone's life a little better. If we all do that, then everyone will be a little better off.

## Increasing Safety

In the wake of recent events, we are working on ways to increase safety. At religious school, the door will be locked while we are there. Parents have been asked to volunteer to open and close the door. This has been in effect for several weeks and has worked well.

Effective immediately, the doors to the UU will be locked at 7:45pm on service nights. While we recognize this is an inconvenience, we feel safety is paramount and encourage your arrival prior to 7:45pm so you don't miss any of the service.

### Join us for Services at the UU!

January 4, 25 and 26 • February 1 and 22

### New Member Shabbat

Please join us on Friday evening January 4 at Erev Shabbat Services to welcome our new members.

### The Kol Ami office has moved to:

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick (UUCF)  
4880 Elmer Derr Rd., Frederick

## Religious School Update

**Joanna Sieger, Education Director**



**W**are about half way through our religious school year.

The students are learning all kinds of things. Everyone is learning Hebrew – even our kindergarten students! The older children are learning prayers and songs. The best way to reinforce the students' Hebrew is by attending services.

In December, we celebrated Hanukkah at religious school. Some classes made cards, while others made gifts for their families. We also gave our students the opportunity to secret shop for their family and friends. The students really enjoyed it!

At this time, we want

to recognize our staff. In addition to our teaching staff, we also have student aids, and volunteers who are with us each week to help make the school run smoothly. We could not do it without the individuals listed. We have made a donation to SHIP in their honor and invite you to say, "thanks" the next time you see them.

David Bass  
Colt Black  
Cliff Miller  
Michaela Black  
Tom Brancato  
Riley Duckhorn  
Eric Dubbin  
Dana Holman  
Angela Kearney  
Mary Cat Lasko  
Ali Lazorchak  
Samantha Lieberman  
Zachary Nelson  
Andie Sante  
Molly Sieger  
Rabbi Stratford



*Clockwise from top left: Second graders with their Hanukkah greetings, 7th grader with handmade Hanukkah plate, students enjoying the secret shop, 7th grader with handmade Hanukkah plate.*

## From Rabbi Simon Stratford

*Continued from page 1*

rabbinic literature and the Oral Torah circa 2nd century CE. The Rabbis of the *Mishnah* aimed to preserve the laws of the Torah and did so by marking “four new year days” on the calendar.

The first of the Jewish new year days is the first day of the month of Tishrei, best known as Rosh Hashanah. Traditionally, Rosh Hashanah is the New Year for seasons. Today, Rosh Hashanah is best known as the New Year for the Jewish calendar. The second New Year date is the fifteenth of the month of Shevat, the New Year for trees. This New Year marks the New Year for agriculture. The fifteenth of Shevat, or Tu B'Shevat, will be celebrated starting the evening of Sunday, January 20th.

The third Jewish New Year celebration established by the rabbis and derived from the laws of Torah is the first of

Nissan. This New Year date correlates with the time of the Israelite redemption from slavery in Egypt and is commemorated today as Passover. The final New Year day in the Jewish calendar is the first of Elul. The first of Elul is the New Year date for the tithing of cattle. Today, the month of Elul denotes the beginning of a time of repentance. The entire month is devoted to preparing for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Having celebrated one New Year's Day (January 1) last week and before the next Jewish New Year occurs, this is a time for us to consider what it means to celebrate the new year?

Our culture condones a means of celebrating the New Year each December 31, that is far from the teachings of Judaism. Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel best summarizes this notion. He once said, “People

of our time are losing the power of celebration. Instead of celebrating, we seek to be amused or entertained. Celebration is an active state, an act of expressing reverence or appreciation. To be entertained is a passive state – it is to receive pleasure afforded by an amusing act or a spectacle...Celebration is a confrontation, giving attention the transcendent meaning of one's actions.” (The Wisdom of Heschel)

Each of the four Jewish New Year days corresponds to the words of Abraham Joshua Heschel. The focal point of the Jewish New Years is not to stand around waiting for the stroke of midnight; rather the Jewish New Year is centered on our actions. This New Year may our individual actions lead us to enjoy together a happy and healthy New Year.

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## Upcoming Events

### Upcoming Bat Mitzvah

Haley Smith • January 26, 2019



Haley is an Honor Roll Student at Urbana Middle School. She is involved in the Student Government Association. Haley plays club soccer, rec cheer and participates in strength and agility training through the Sarge program. In her free time, Haley loves to read and play with her dog Barkley.

**Please welcome new members!**

Rabbi Gershon Blackmore and Addy Greenfeld

## MOVIES & MIDRASH

AN ADULT EDUCATION FILM SERIES

**Popular Film and Jewish Religious Conversation.** Using cinema as a springboard to discuss central Jewish texts and matters of belief. Join us as we explore what Jewish tradition, text, and theology have to say about the lessons and themes arising from influential and compelling films.

**JAN. 5, 2019: A SERIOUS MAN (2009)**

**MARCH 2, 2019: THE GATEKEEPERS (2012)**

**MAY 4, 2019: THE FRISCO KID (1979)**

**JULY 20, 2019: STRANGER THAN FICTION (2006)**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

Rabbi Simon Stratford [rabbi@kolamifrederick.org](mailto:rabbi@kolamifrederick.org) or  
(240) 575 - 9690

Stay tuned for times and locations!

### Save the Date! Purim Party!

March 24 from 2:00-4:00 pm

Community Room of the ERUCC

Crafts and activities including a cake walk and hamentashen sale. We will be looking for volunteers to bake and run craft and activity stations.

### Brotherhood Dinner

Tuesdays, January 8 and February 5  
6:30 pm

Greetings, one and all...

Looking for a hot, hearty meal in the cold of January? The January CKAF Brotherhood dinner (this month on the second Tuesday, since the first Tuesday is New Year's) will be:

**Manalu Italian Restaurant**

**5227 Presidents Court**

**Tuesday, January 8th, 6:30 pm**

Interested and able to join us? Please RSVP using the link below so that we have an accurate head count.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JSRYR5B>

### Women's Coffee

Wednesday January 2

Wednesday, February 6

10:00 am at Panera on Route 26

Women of Kol Ami meet on the first Wednesday of every month, unless otherwise noted. Come meet your friends and let us know what is happening in your life. Check this link for the latest coffee date: RSVP: [signupgenius.com/go/4090a45a9a92d6-womens](https://signupgenius.com/go/4090a45a9a92d6-womens)

### Join us for Torah Study

Fascinating topics, interesting discussions.

Mondays at 12:30 p.m. at the office  
(Jan. 7 and Feb. 4 are at Buckingham's Choice)

January 7, 14, 21 and 28

February 4, 11, 18, and 25

### Upcoming KATY Event

Sat. Jan. 12, 2019

The Boulder Yard

Indoor rock climbing facility

Stay tuned for more details on this event and our upcoming February 10 Social Action event.

# Upcoming Events

## Upcoming Fundraising Events

Watch your mailbox in January for our annual **"Not A Party"** Event. Please consider contributing generously to this no effort, no babysitter needed fundraising event. Dues alone do not cover all our expenses, and we count on fundraising to help fund events and educational programs at CKAF. Thank you in advance for your contribution.

The **Stella and Dot Party** will be held this year at the home of Samantha Lieberman on March 16. Be sure to mark your calendars. More details to follow.

### Family Gatherings for 2019

#### by Colt Black

One of the wonderful things about any religious organization is the sense of community that can be fostered and nourished by congregational events. Coming together to celebrate the holidays that are the core tenants of celebration are so very important. However, it is also wonderful to have simple gatherings...to come together, to share a meal, to converse, to get to know other members of the community.

We have begun holding a monthly gathering, generally on a Sunday after religious school. These events are open to every member of the congregation and all are welcome. The dates and locations for January through April are below. Some of the details are still to be determined. Check for final details in the weekly bulletin email.

If you are interested in hosting an event in the future or have an idea for a get together, please contact Colt Black at blacksfh@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!

#### **Sunday, January 13**

12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.  
Laser Tag and Lunch at FSK Mall  
Adults can come and play too!  
There will be a Sign-Up Genius for the Laser Tag

#### **Sunday, February 17**

12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.  
Lunch at CiCi's Pizza

#### **Sunday, March 10**

12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.  
Lunch Restaurant Fundraiser  
Tentative Location: Chili's Restaurant

#### **Sunday, April 14**

12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.  
Park Clean-up and Picnic

## The Sisterhood Book Club

### A few reasons to join our book club:

- It gives you a push to read some great literature
- Make new friends
- Gain new perspectives from comment from other book club members
- Good for those of retirement age; keep your mind sharp
- Eat lunch and have a glass of wine too
- No pop quizzes, ever, we promise!

### Our next book club luncheon is:



**Wednesday, January 9**  
**12:30 pm at Macaroni Grill in the Westview Promenade.**

### ***Becoming* by Michelle Obama**

Go the following link to RSVP and read a synopsis of the book:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a45a9a92d6-kolami1>

## Join us for Girl's Night Out!

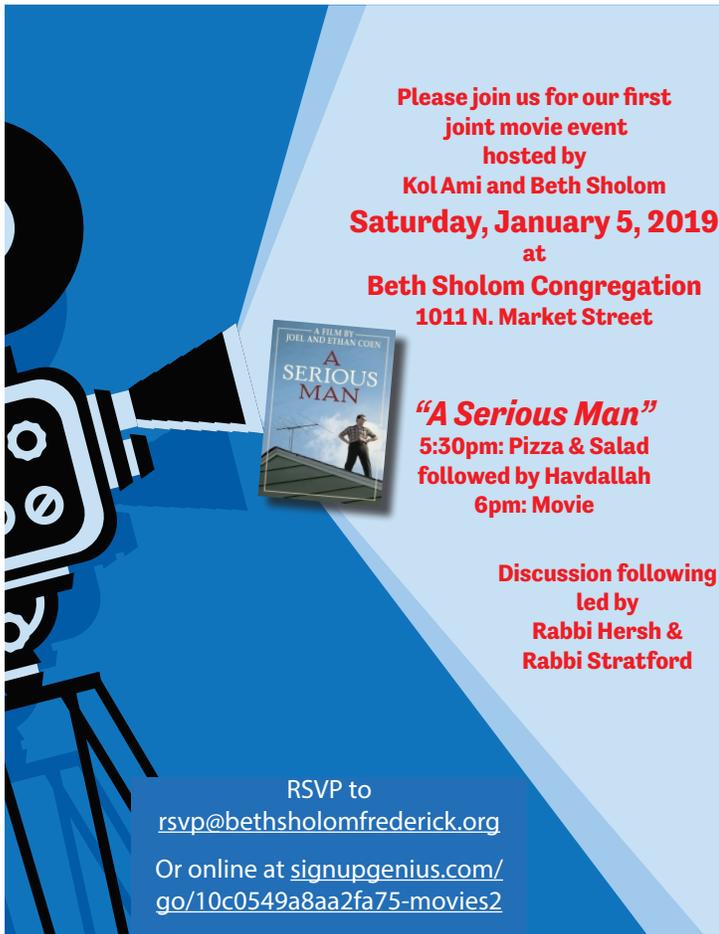
Thursdays, January 24 and February 28  
6:30 p.m.

**Stay tuned for details.**

## Help Fund a New Website for Kol Ami

A new fund has been established for our congregation, the Advertising and Communications Fund. The key to building a sense of community within Congregation Kol Ami is enhancing our online community. The Kol Ami website communicates information to congregants, potential members, and members of the community, but the current website is over 6 years old. Kol Ami needs a fresh, easy-to-navigate, user friendly and mobile compatible website and updated data management system to enhance our image within the Frederick community and to attract new members. Please consider donating to the Advertising and Communications Fund under the 'Support Us' tab on [kolamifrederick.org](http://kolamifrederick.org).

If you are interested in joining the Communications and Public Relations Committee or have ideas to share regarding modernizing our website, please contact Diane Rifkin at 301-401-6891 or email [communications@kolamifrederick.org](mailto:communications@kolamifrederick.org).



Please join us for our first  
joint movie event  
hosted by  
Kol Ami and Beth Sholom  
**Saturday, January 5, 2019**  
at  
**Beth Sholom Congregation**  
1011 N. Market Street

**"A Serious Man"**  
5:30pm: Pizza & Salad  
followed by Havdallah  
6pm: Movie

Discussion following  
led by  
Rabbi Hersh &  
Rabbi Stratford

RSVP to  
[rsvp@bethsholomfrederick.org](mailto:rsvp@bethsholomfrederick.org)  
Or online at [signupgenius.com/  
go/10c0549a8aa2fa75-movies2](http://signupgenius.com/go/10c0549a8aa2fa75-movies2)

## Contributors to The Voice – 2018

In 2004, our nascent congregation started a quarterly newsletter, *The Voice*, that increased frequency to bimonthly five years later. The newsletter is mailed to the members and posted to the website. A team of many talented members works up front to write the main articles and behind the scenes to gather and report critical information, write content, design graphics and announcements, and perform essential editorial tasks to generate each issue. *The Voice* thanks the staff and contributors for their service during 2018.

### Volunteer Staff

Copy Editors – Kerry Reynolds and Elizabeth Powell  
Layout Editor – Betsy Maymon  
Advertising Editor – Ilana Love  
Proofreader – Mark Hoffrichter

### Writers and Reporters

Bob Blumenthal	Sabrina Nail
Jill Cody	Carolyn Plaisance
Anne Cohen	Kerry Reynolds
Ralene Damanti	Diane Rifkin
Jodi Duckhorn	Dan Sieger
Jeff Feiertag	Joanna Sieger
Judi Feldman	David Silberman
Ilene White Freedman	Rabbi Simon Stratford

Save The Date...February 3, 2019  
Kol Ami's very own  
Starters-Soups-Salads & Sweets



"Adult only" Party

Location...The Feldman Home

**FUNDRAISER!** Time...6:00 - **FUNDRAISER!**

Super Bowl Squares  
are being sold  
10.00 each

(sell them to family & friends)

**FUNDRAISER!**

Details will follow

Save the Date!



Congregation Kol Ami is inviting family, friends,  
&  
the Frederick community, to join us...

Bus Trip to Philadelphia Flower Show

Wednesday, March 6, 2019  
Boarding time 7:00 am

95.00 Kol Ami Members  
110.00 Non-members  
**INCLUDES** admission ticket to the show!  
Details to follow

# Meet Congregation Kol Ami's Board of Trustees



## **Dan Sieger, President**

Dan is married to Joanna and they have 3 children – Molly, 17, Zach, 16 and Sarah, 11. He is a native Marylander and has lived in Frederick since he and

Joanna settled here 18 years ago. Dan became very active in the congregation in 2016, participating on the search committee for a new rabbi, among other things, and he feels fortunate that he was able to see Rabbi Stratford's ordination in Cincinnati. He also taught kindergarten in our religious school and served as a trustee (2017-2018).



## **Anne Cohen, Vice President and Membership Chair**

Anne is married to Michael for almost 50 years, and they have lived in Frederick for

43 years. (They are, however, native New Yorkers.) They have two adult children and five grandchildren. The Cohens have been members of Kol Ami since 2006, and Anne has served on the Board since 2009. She enjoys serving as membership chairperson and getting to meet new people. Anne is a retired Frederick County Public School middle school teacher who is enjoying retirement, which includes traveling to places on her large bucket list. Anne enjoys being part of this wonderful, supportive, caring community, the uplifting services, and the many friends they have made through Kol Ami.



## **Faith Miller, Treasurer**

Faith, her husband Cliff and their cocker spaniel Daisy live in Crestwood Village. They relocated to Maryland from Georgia in April of 2018 to be close

to their children, grandchildren, and sister and brother-in-law and joined Kol Ami that June. Faith retired from the University System of Georgia as a Human Resource Director and still works remotely part-time. Her degree is in accounting from Cleveland State University. She is a past president and treasurer of Congregation Rodeph Sholom in Rome, Georgia. In her free time, Faith sings with Harbor City Music Company, a Sweet Adeline chorus which placed sixth in International competition. Faith and Cliff feel they have found a home at Kol Ami, and Faith enjoys being part of the team at Kol Ami that helps the congregation run smoothly and grow.



## **Ralene Damanti, Financial Secretary**

Originally from Brooklyn, New York, and remembering fondly when the Brooklyn Dodgers were at Ebbets

Field, Ralene is married to Frank and they live in Spring Ridge. The Damantis have six children and 10 grandchildren. Ralene retired in 2015 from Frederick County Public Schools after 31 years where she served as the Budget Coordinator for Special Education. Ralene and Frank have been members of Kol Ami since 2007. She has served as a Board Member and is currently the Financial Secretary. Ralene and Frank enjoy traveling, family visits and binge watching on Netflix. Ralene enjoys the many warm relationships she has with other members of the congregation and the outstanding services conducted by Rabbi Stratford.



## **Mary Cat Lasko, Secretary**

Mary Cat is married to Jeff and lives in Walkersville with their 3 children – Mitch, 14, Caelyn, 12 and Eliana, 9 – who go to

school at Walkersville High and Middle Schools and Glade Elementary School. She works full time as a medical coder for a local billing company. The Laskos have been members of Kol Ami since 2012. Mary Cat has served as a Trustee and currently is the Assistant Director of the Religious School. She keeps busy volunteering for Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. In her free time, she enjoys watching medical and legal dramas, as well as spending time with family. Mary Cat feels honored to serve on the Board and be part of a warm and friendly congregation.



## **Joanna Sieger, Immediate Past President**

Joanna is married to Dan and lives in Adamstown with their three children – Molly, who has worked in our school since her Bat Mitzvah in 2014, Zachary, and Sarah, who is entering our sixth grade. After teaching for nine years for Kol Ami's religious school, Joanna is the Education Director. Joanna is the director of the Beth Sholom Early Childhood Center in Frederick, where she also teaches the two-year old class. Additionally, she serves on the Executive Board of Kol Ami as the immediate past president.

## Meet Congregation Kol Ami's Board of Trustees (cont'd)



### **Bob Blumenthal, Trustee**

Bob is retired and married to Tess, principal of Walkersville Elementary School. They have lived in Frederick County

since 1986 and became members of Kol Ami in 2009. They feel lucky to have their daughter and son-in-law (Hannah and Matt Feldman), and their two granddaughters (Rachel and Sydney) living only six miles away. Their other daughter, Devra, lives with her two sons (Max and Zac) in Edmonton, Canada, and their son, Alex, enjoys living and working in Portland, Oregon. Bob's activities include cooking, painting and board gaming. In May and September/October he takes small groups of up to seven persons on 10-day tours to Provence, France. His goal in being on the Kol Ami Board of Trustees is to find ways to cultivate the Frederick Jewish community in becoming more relevant in all our lives.



### **Dan Bilow, Trustee**

Dan graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1994 and has had nearly 23 years of Navy experience, both on active duty and in the

reserves. On his final active duty tour at the Pentagon, he met Elizabeth. After his active duty service, Dan joined the Navy Reserves, but was recalled to active duty immediately after 9/11 and to Haiti for 8 months following the 2010 earthquake. Dan currently works as a senior office director for the Passports/ Visa section of the U.S. Department of State. When he is not working at the Pentagon or traveling to NATO headquarters, he is an active father and husband. He participates in Aaron's Boy Scout activities, Noah's baseball and ice hockey, and Sarah's figure skating and Girl Scouts. Every once in a while, Dan and Elizabeth can be found in downtown Frederick trying out some of the new eateries.



### **Harriet Buxbaum, Trustee**

Harriet is a retired teacher with Frederick County Public Schools. She is married to Howard, and they have two adult

children and one grandson. Some of her favorite activities are spending time with her family and friends, traveling and doing volunteer work. She finds it a pleasure to serve on the Board of Trustees. She feels Kol Ami has many wonderful opportunities and would encourage each member to find their niche. She feels very fortunate to have Rabbi Stratford as the spiritual leader of the Kol Ami community.



### **Ali Lazorchak, Trustee**

Ali, a native Baltimorean, is married to Rob and lives in Point of Rocks with their son Hayden, 14. Ali has a B.S. in English Education and master's

degrees in Special Education as well as Educational Leadership. She has taught at Frederick High School for the last 22 years. The Lazorchak family runs a non-profit, Hayden's Heart Heroes, benefiting Johns Hopkins Pediatric Cardiology/Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. HHH was established to honor their son who was born with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome (half a heart). Ali is a member of the Patient and Family Advisory Council at Hopkins and a Parent to Parent Mentor. The Lazorchaks have been members of Kol Ami for the past nine years. As an active member, Ali serves as a trustee, a member of the education committee, and teaches in the religious school. Ali enjoys being a part of the Kol Ami community.



### **Samantha Lieberman, Trustee**

Samantha has been married to Mike for 17 years, and they live in Urbana. They have three children, Grant,

15, Brooke, 12, Hunter, 7 and their dog Hope. Samantha serves on the Board of Trustees, the Fundraising Committee and the Education Committee. She taught first grade in the religious school for five years and seventh grade for the past two years. When she is not driving the kids to their various activities, Samantha enjoys cooking, trying out new restaurants, traveling, theater, hanging out with friends and family and watching her favorite shows. Her family loves being part of Kol Ami for the warmth and support they experience from this community.



### **Betsy Maymon, Trustee**

Betsy is married to Jeff and lives in Frederick. They have two sons, Alex, 26 and Gabe, 23. They have been members of

Kol Ami since 2006, and Betsy has served in many capacities, including Community Relations Chair, Recording Secretary, Vice President and as a Trustee since 2009. Betsy taught Religious School for five years and also serves as layout editor for the Voice. She owns her own graphic design firm, B Maymon Design, and has been self-employed for over 20 years. In her spare time, Betsy enjoys painting, visiting art museums and traveling. She and her family have enjoyed the nurturing community of Kol Ami over the years.

**Lee Nelson, Trustee**

Lee is married to Jessica and lives in Dayton (Howard County). They have 3 children, Zachary, 16, Eliza, 13, and Violet, 11. The Nelsons have been

members of Kol Ami since 2008. During that time, the Nelson family have felt very welcome at Kol Ami and feel it is the best fit for their family. As a result, when they moved to Dayton in 2011, they chose to stay at Kol Ami in spite of the 40-mile commute to Kol Ami services, activities and religious school. Lee is a contractor to the federal government, where he provides IT consulting and project management. He spends most of his spare time with his family, traveling when possible, working around the yard and house, and supporting the kids' activities.

**Cathy Reifman, Trustee**

Cathy lives in New Market with her husband, Jaques. They have two children, Julia, 24 and Danny, 22. They moved to Maryland

from Chicago in 2001, when Jaques was hired to work as an Army scientist at Fort Detrick. Cathy works part-time as a pediatrician in a small group practice in Eldersburg, Maryland. In her free time, Cathy enjoys traveling, reading, cooking and walking her dog, Wrigley, around her neighborhood. She is looking forward to seeing the Kol Ami family grow and thrive under the leadership of Rabbi Stratford.

**Jordan Schneider, Trustee**

Jordan is from Brooklyn, New York, and has lived in Urbana for the last 8 years. He is the Director of Catering & Off Premise

Sales and Operations for Capriotti's Sandwich Shop. Jordan has a daughter, Mara, who is 17. Some of his favorite activities are spending time with his family and friends, wine tastings, and anything sports related – whether Fantasy Baseball, Football or Basketball or a day at any ballpark. Serving as Kol Ami's President, Immediate Past President, Rabbi Search Committee Chairman and now Trustee has been an honor for him. He looks forward to continuing to participate in Kol Ami's growth.

**Thanks for years of service****From Dan Sieger**

I would like to take a few moments to let everyone know that due to personal reasons, Steve Fleisher (Secretary) and Jeff Feiertag (Trustee) have stepped down from the Board of Trustees. After more than a decade of service to the Congregation, they feel that time did not allow them to fulfill their commitment to the Board at the level they expect of themselves. They will continue to be members and be involved in the Brotherhood and Kol Ami activities. I want to personally thank them both for their time on this Board (and all previous Boards) and want them to know that they will be missed. Steve and Jeff... Thank You!

**5th grade class celebrates Hanukkah and leading Shabbat service****by David Bass**

Our Kol Ami Religious School fifth-graders inspired the congregation by leading the Shabbat service on Friday, December 7. The whole class lit Hanukkah candles at the beginning of the service, and then each student read an English blessing, either alone or with a partner. Rabbi Stratford, Cantorial Soloist Eric Dubbin, Tom Brancato and I, and family members were proud of how they worked together.

The students understood that they had an important role to play, different from when they usually come to Temple. Dylan said, "My favorite part of leading a Shabbat Service is the you're not just listening to the service, you actually get to have a part and other people listen to you." Owen agreed saying, "My favorite part of leading the service is that I can hear myself singing and chanting. Noah, when asked his favorite part of leading the service, replied, "That at that time, for about a minute, the services depended on me." Along these lines, Joseph advised other kids who will be leading services to, "remember to say the prayers with meaning."

The students practiced being ready to read their parts of the service. Reflecting on this, Hyatt Gordon said, "If one night you go to practice your part and you don't make any mistakes, you will know you're ready." Tom

and I were pleased that students who read a prayer together connected with their partners. Joshua, for example, said, "My favorite part of leading the Shabbat Services was having a part to read with a partner or classmate." And even students who read their prayers alone had developed good friendships this year. Emma and Maggie were excited to sit together and celebrate each other's accomplishment with their reading.

The fifth grade class has also learned several prayers in Hebrew this year, which they had a chance to sing together from their seats. Sarah was proud of her learning the words to the *V'Shamru*, telling us, "My favorite part of the service is where we sung *V'Shamru* because we knew every little detail in *V'Shamru*."

Since this was the Shabbat service during Hanukkah, Tom and I asked our students about their favorite Hanukkah traditions. Many students enjoy that their families light multiple menorahs. Bailey added that she and her sister have three menorahs and Maggie said that her favorite tradition is "putting out a lot of menorahs." Owen really enjoys having his Dad make latkes for him and his siblings. After the service, we gathered together for a congregational potluck, including latkes, which was a great way to celebrate Hanukkah and our fifth-graders' efforts.

## Celebrating our Members of 10 Years or More!\*

Bob and Tess Blumenthal	Michael and Samantha Lieberman
Bernie Bordenick	Michael and Lilli Loube
Howard and Harriet Buxbaum	Jeff and Betsy Mayman
Lance and Wendy Cary	Steve and Michelle McMahon
Richard and Jill Cody	David and Marla Migdal
Michael and Anne Cohen	Charlie and Sabrina Nail
Frank and Ralene Damanti	Bob and Janet Parnes
Ruth De La Viez	Newt and Carolyn Plaisance
Eric and Susan Dubbin	Jaques and Cathy Reifman
Janine Egerman	Michael and Diane Rifkin
Mark Farbman	Judy Simpson
Jeannie and William Fawley	Dan and Joanna Sieger
Jeff Feiertag	Jack and Yin Star
Rae Fleisher	Keith and Lisa Stickley
Steve and Barbara Fleisher	Ruth Stuart
Jack and Amy Gober	David Twenhafel and Tamar Osterman
Mark and Barri Hoffrichter	Alan Wanuck
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Barry and Ellen Koitz	

\* As of Nov. 18

## A Message to the Congregation Kol Ami

from Jerry Hutton, President of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick

On behalf of the Board and Members of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick (UUCF), we welcome you to an increased presence in our mutual home. For too long, you have been an almost invisible roommate, sharing our space when we were not here. I would not be surprised if many of our UUCF Congregation were not even aware of the extent to which your rental of worship space has assisted us our growth and maintenance of our building. The Board recently approved, as requested, an invitation for you to hang a *mezuzah* at the door to our common worship space to symbolize that you are more than a tenant, you are home here.

We are pleased that Rabbi Simon has successfully moved his office to the front of our building and has regularly joined the UUCF staff for weekly lunches since his arrival. We hope that the increased classroom and storage space now available will meet your present needs.

Our eight principles and living traditions are compatible with your beliefs and goals. For example, one of our traditions calls for us to draw on, "Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life." Another specifically to "Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as our ourselves." In this spirit, we are looking forward to working together with you on social justice projects as part of our outreach to the larger Frederick religious Community and participation in joint social events. Our Board will soon be inviting your Board to meet jointly with us to determine how to further these goals. In the meantime, members of Kol Ami are always welcome to attend our services. Welcome home!

## Barnes & Noble Bookfair

by David Silberman, Fundraising Committee Chair



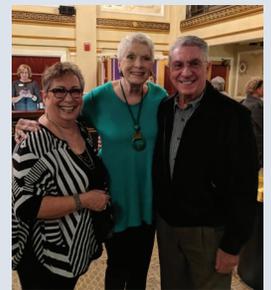
On November 18, Congregation Kol Ami of Frederick held a bookfair fundraiser at Barnes & Noble. Kol Ami volunteers wrapped books purchased for holiday giving. Books were collected and donated to the Johns Hopkins Children's Center. Rabbi Stratford held a PJ Storytime.

Volunteers pictured include David Silberman, Joanna and Molly Sieger, Diane Rifkin, Michael Cohen, and Brenda Silberman.

Additional volunteers not pictured include Sharry Veil, Harriet and Howard Buxbaum, Carolyn and Newt Plaisance, Valarie Lazerowich, Anne Cohen, Rhonda Lang, Cathy Reifman, Amy Gober, Nicki Stratford, and the Weinberg family.

## Thank you!

On October 20th at the Weinberg Center, Kol Ami sponsored the performance of humorist Jeanne Robertson. Thanks to those members who purchased tickets to the event. We worked hard to make the evening a success and look forward to future fundraising endeavors. A great time was had by all.



## Social Action Committee Update

by Sharry Veil

The CKAFF Social Action Committee want to express our deep appreciation for your support of SHIP of Frederick and Advocates for Homeless Families of Frederick. It is so wonderful to see our yellow bin overflowing again. You are helping so many children and we are so grateful for your donations. Please do not hesitate and check out SHIP at [www.shipfrederick.com](http://www.shipfrederick.com), and you can read all about Advocates for Homeless Families of Frederick on their website [www.afhf88.org](http://www.afhf88.org).



**Torah...“It is a tree of life to all who grasp it, and whoever holds on to it is happy; its ways are ways of pleasantness, and all its paths are peace. (Proverbs 3:17-18)**

## The Paryshot for January and February are as follows:

### January 5 – *Va-eira*, Exodus 6:2-9:35

God instructs Moses and Aaron to deliver the Israelites from Egypt; they perform a miracle with a snake before Pharaoh; the first seven plagues occur.

### January 12 – *Bo*, Exodus 10:1-13:16

God sends the plagues of locusts and forewarns Moses about the final one; God commands the Passover festival; all firstborn in Egypt die save those from the House of Israel; Pharaoh now allows the Israelites to leave.

### January 19 – *B’shalach*, Exodus 13:17-17:16

Israelites are saved at the Sea of Reeds; God provides the grumbling Israelites with quails and manna; instructions on preparing food for Shabbat; incident at the rock when Moses strikes it with his rod to obtain water.

### January 26 – *Yitro*, Exodus 18:1-20:23

Moses follows Yitro’s advice to appoint judges to help him; the Israelites camp at Mount Sinai, where they encounter God and hear the covenant and the Ten Commandments; Moses becomes their intermediary.

### February 2 – *Mishpatim*, Exodus 21:1-24:18

Lots of laws, including treatment of slaves, the Sabbath, the Three Pilgrimage Festivals, sacrificial offerings and not mixing meat and dairy; Moses spends 40 days on the mountain.

### February 9 – *T’rumah*, Exodus 25:1-27:19

God asks Israelites to donate gifts for building the Tabernacle; instructions for constructing the Ark and also for building the Tabernacle.

### February 16 – *T’zaveh*, Exodus 27:20-30:10

Israelites are commanded to provide oil for the ner tamid; Aaron and his sons are chosen to be priests, and they are ordained in a seven-day ceremony.

### February 23 – *Ki Tisa*, Exodus 30:11-34:35

The first census; Israelites are instructed to keep Shabbat; God gives Moses the two tablets; the Golden Calf incident, followed by a plague; Moses receives a new set of tablets and returns from the mount with a radiant face.

## Tzedek, Tzedek You Shall Pursue

By Bob Blumenthal

Before Moses took his final leave from the children of Israel—to climb Mount Nebo for his opportunity to see the Promised Land he was forbidden to enter—Moses gave three discourses. All are found in Deuteronomy. Within the second of those dissertations is *Shofetim*.

*Shofetim* is the 48th weekly Torah portion in the annual cycle of Torah readings. It constitutes Deuteronomy 16:18–21:9. This parshah instructs us on a wide range of topics: judges, justice, forbidden trees and pillars worshipped as idols, blemished sacrifices, penalties for idolatry, a supreme court, the king, Levitical priests, divination and prophesy, cities of refuge, murder, conspiring witnesses, preparing for war, conducting a siege, and even the “Case of the Unsolved Murder.” (Jessica Fletcher, eat your heart out.) With all of this going on, there is, in Deuteronomy 16:20, a very special declaration by Moses, which has become the keynote of the humane rule of Torah and the Jewish demand for social righteousness.

*Tzedek, tzedek tirdof...* – “Justice, Justice shall you pursue, that you will live, and inherit the Land that the Almighty your God gives you.”

Many Jewish translations use “Justice” for *Tzedek*, as explained in *The Torah: A Modern Commentary*, by W.G. Plaut, which is

used by Kol Ami. Yet, it is also common to find “Righteousness, Righteousness shall you pursue...” where “Righteousness” is the chosen translation for *Tzedek* (*The Stone Edition of the Chumash*, Orthodox). Either word is correct as *Tzedek* means justice or righteousness. The phrase has become famous, and much has been written on the double use of the word *Tzedek*.

Rabbi Jennifer Singer writes, “the Bible rarely repeats itself, so when the word *Tzedek* appears twice in a single phrase, we know we are supposed to pay attention. It is the biblical equivalent of underlining and boldface typing.” (<https://srqjew.wordpress.com/2017/08/25/justice-justice-you-shall-pursue/>)

“Why ‘justice’ twice? To teach us: Pursue the goal of justice through means that are just. And to teach us: Justice for ourselves. And justice for the other.” (Rabbi Arthur Waskow <https://theshalomcenter.org/node/211>)

But my question is, which translation is best? Righteousness or justice? Righteousness and justice do not mean the same things. Righteousness can be defined as observing divine laws, keeping the commandments and a way of thinking, feeling and acting that is conformed to the will of God. Justice is about fairness, judgment, love and caring for the vulnerable. Righteousness is about self. Justice is about community.

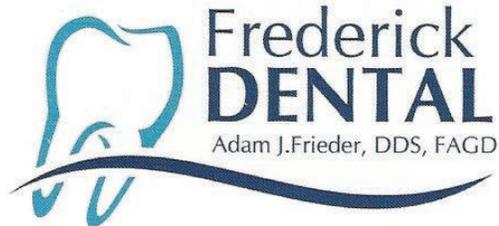
I think Moses used *Tzedek* twice to emphasize that BOTH Justice and Righteousness should be pursued. “Righteousness, and Justice shall you pursue, that you will live and inherit the Land that the Almighty your God gives you!”

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You can also go to kolamifrederick.org and find the link on the home page to start your holiday shopping.



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Kerry & Carol Reynolds

### **General Fund**

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Charlie & Sabrina Nail, in honor of Jessica Price and  
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Charlie & Sabrina Nail, in honor of the fabulous teaching  
staff at Kol Ami

Charlie & Sabrina Nail, in honor of Joanna Sieger's  
term as president

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father of Brenda Silberman

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Eric & Susan Dubbin, in memory of Albert Dubbin,  
grandfather of Eric Dubbin

Mark Farbman, in memory of Hilda Farbman,  
mother of Mark Farbman

## Member Finances

As a volunteer-run organization, Kol Ami relies heavily on its members to do everything from setting up onegs on Shabbat to coordinating social programming. While everything we ask of members is important, honoring financial commitments to the congregation is consistently among the most important thing we ask of our congregants. Without your financial support, there could be no Kol Ami.

Remember that financial assistance agreements are valid for one fiscal year (July through June). While we are aware that some members may need help from year to year, we require that you resubmit a new application each year, as we do not

make assumptions regarding who requires assistance. No one will receive financial assistance without having submitted an application. Applications, found on our website, must be submitted annually by August 15th.

Some of our members find it easy to budget regular monthly dues/tuition payments. All you need to do is notify your bank online and they will mail a check to Kol Ami. No charge to you, no postage, no fuss.

Please direct any questions or concerns about your specific account and charges to Ralene Damanti, Financial Secretary, at [financialsecretary@kolamifrederick.org](mailto:financialsecretary@kolamifrederick.org).

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## Our Mission

To be an inclusive Reform Jewish congregation that is family focused, community oriented, emphasizes spiritual and cultural identity, and is dedicated to the Jewish education of all generations.



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Frederick, MD 21703

## Return Service Requested

### January/February 2019 Upcoming Events

#### January

Tues, Jan. 1	6:30pm	Brotherhood Dinner
Wed, Jan. 2	10:00am	Women's Coffee
Thurs, Jan. 3	7:00pm	Social Action Committee Mtg
Fri, Jan. 4	6:30pm	Tot Shabbat Service
	7:30pm	Erev Shabbat Service: New Member Shabbat
Sat, Jan. 5	6:00pm	Movies & Midrash
Sun, Jan. 6	9:30am	Religious School
	2:00pm	Intro to Judaism Session 23
Mon, Jan. 7	12:30pm	Torah Study
Wed, Jan. 9	12:30pm	Book Club
Thurs, Jan. 10	7:00pm	Communications & PR Committee Mtg
Sat, Jan. 12	5:00pm	KATY Event: Boulder Yard
Sun, Jan. 13	9:30am	Religious School
	2:00pm	Intro to Judaism Session 24
Mon, Jan. 14	12:30pm	Torah Study
Fri-Mon, Jan. 18-21		NFTY-MAR's Winter Kallah
Fri-Mon, Jan. 18-21		Franklinton Center Trip
Mon, Jan. 21	12:30pm	Torah Study
Fri, Jan. 25	7:30pm	Erev Shabbat Service
Sat, Jan. 26	10:00am	Bat Mitzvah of Haley Smith
Sun, Jan. 27	9:30am	Religious School
Mon, Jan. 28	12:30pm	Torah Study
	7:00pm	Board of Trustees Mtg

#### February

Fri, Feb. 1	6:30pm	Tot Shabbat Service
	7:30pm	Erev Shabbat Service
Sun, Feb. 3	9:30am	Religious School - 6th grade parent workshop
Mon, Feb. 4	12:30pm	Torah Study
Tues, Feb. 5	6:30pm	Brotherhood Dinner
Wed, Feb. 6	10:00am	Women's Coffee
Thurs, Feb. 7	7:00pm	Social Action Committee Mtg
Sun, Feb. 10	9:30am	Religious School
	Time TBD	KATY Event: Social Action
Mon, Feb. 11	12:30pm	Torah Study
Thurs, Feb. 14	7:00pm	Communications & PR Committee Mtg
Sun, Feb. 17	9:30am	Religious School
Mon, Feb. 18	12:30pm	Torah Study
Thurs, Feb. 21		Kol Ami Founder's Day
Fri, Feb. 22	7:30pm	Erev Shabbat Service
Sun, Feb. 24	9:30am	Religious School
Mon, Feb. 25	12:30pm	Torah Study
	7:00pm	Board of Trustees Mtg